



North Haven Congregational Church

Church Council Minutes

Meeting of December 16, 2008

ATTENDING

Beth Anderson (Trustees), Martin Benassi (Music), Jim Bennett (Moderator), Joan Bennett (Deacons), Priscilla Bradford (Clerk), Chris Corcoran (Outreach), Philip DiPeri (Finance), Barbara Marks (Christian Education), Scott Morrow (Senior Pastor), Tim Peiffer (Congregational Rep), John Tibor (Treasurer), Tom Woodruff (Building and Grounds), Phil James (Interested Party).

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm and led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the November 18 meeting were accepted as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report reflects income and expenses through December 7. Salary and benefit line is under budget about \$20,000. Workman's comp insurance of \$400 has been paid and \$2600 for liability insurance due January 1 will be paid by December 29. Note that some 2009 pledges have been paid. **Report accepted.**

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Annual reports are due in the office by January 2. New Haven East Consociation Pulpit Swap will be January 11. Scott encouraged the Board of Outreach to re-schedule the fundraiser for the homeless shelter. The need is still there. Christmas caroling on the North Haven Green at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 21 will benefit Habitat Sleeping Giant Build. Eighty-four boxes will be distributed from the food closet to families for Christmas. Many businesses put out collection boxes. A total of \$9000 was received from Stop and Shop's 'Food for

Friends' drive along with additional funds from the Rotary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Grounds

Tom reported that the garage door in Carroll Hall is fixed. The downed gutter will be replaced after the roof is replaced. Boy Scouts have raked the leaves. A new snow blower has been purchased for the parsonage with Memorial Gift funds. Windows in Carroll Hall need new latches. The light fixture outside the elevator door will be fixed.

Christian Education

Barbara shared that Advent Night was enjoyed by all. The pageant on Sunday was great. In January the K, 1 & 2 classes will be combined and some classrooms may be changed.

Christian Outreach

Chris reported that the Blood Drive was a success in spite of several problems. At this point \$280 has been contributed to charities through Alternate Gifts. The Sleeping Giant Build houses on Hallock Street were dedicated in November. SGB is looking for a new project in the spring. Ed Dudley is hoping to schedule a missionary to talk to the Confirmands. Designated organizations will get the monies from the Nextel Fund.

Deacons

Joan reported that the Christmas cards are sold. They are working on an instructional pamphlet to give parents of children being baptized. Two weddings have been approved.

Finance

Philip DiPeri reported that four people will remain on the board and two slots will need to be filled. The current stewardship drive has realized \$120,000 from 101 pledges. That is 80 pledges less than last year. A

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28 Church Street, North Haven, CT 06473

www.NorthHavenUCC.org ❖ (203) 239-5691 ❖ (203) 234-1751 (fax)

letter is going out to people who have not yet pledged. The board members are reading the facilities report from Martin Benassi's firm and are compiling a list of projects. The recipients of the special project award of 2008 for contemporary music have been given to May 31, 2009 to spend their money.

Trustees

The unrestricted funds are divided between stocks and bonds. Bonds are holding their value in the current market but the stocks are down 23% of their value. Trustees will continue to contribute \$25,000 in contingency funds to the 2009 budget and \$100 per month to the utilities.

Music

The Pierpont Concert with Daniel Hartington netted \$185. Piano tuning will be done. A \$250 grant from the 'Meet the Composers Met Life Creative Connections' fund has been received. It will go directly to Mikos when they perform for the Pierpont Concert.

Nominating

Names of people to fill vacancies on the boards were received from the boards present.

OTHER REPORTS

Communications Group

Philip DiPeri has added a list of books that the Book Club has read, weather information and music to the website. He is working on putting the budget on line.

Antelope

Waiting for funds.

Youth

John Tibor (a youth at heart) said that a breakfast to benefit the youth mission trip is scheduled for January 18.

Associate Pastor Search

Tim reported with joy that the committee has committed in terms to call a UCC ordained pastor to the position of Associate Pastor of North Haven Congregational Church with the main responsibility for Christian Education. She will work 26 hours with total compensation of \$38,000 plus a dedicated office and a lap top computer. She will begin on March 19, 2009 pending a signed call. The regional minister, the Rev. Dr. Michael Penn-Strah, has approved the package. **Motion:** Tim moved and John seconded: North Haven Congregational Church will invite the candidate for a weekend on February 7 and 8, 2009. She will preach on February 8. A Congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship to approve the call. **Approved.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Moderator to appoint a Committee to create an O&A statement and circulate the statement for discussion and response prior to bringing it to a vote by the congregation. **Carry forward.**

Committees to have their Annual Reports to the office by January 2, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS:

A search committee is to be appointed to begin the process of finding a new Director of Music.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is January 13 at 7:30 pm. (Note: This is the second Tuesday.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Bradford, Church Clerk